Ch'ing there were eight of them. Usually a Viceroy was placed over two provinces (Fukien-Chekiang, Hupeh-Hunan, Shensi-Kansu, Kwangtung-Kwangsi, and Yunnan-Kweichow). In one instance he was placed over three, Kiangsu-Anhui-Kiangsi. Chihli and Szechwan each had a Viceroy but no Governor. Each of the other provinces had a Governor. Shantung, Honan, and Shansi each had a Governor but were not under a Viceroy. In general, the Viceroys were supposed^ to have the powers of a monarch within their jurisdictions — subject always, of course, to the crown. In theory the Governor had much the same functions, but subject to the Viceroy, except of course, in the three provinces over which there was no Viceroy. In practice the two often conflicted and exercised a check over each other. The functions of the other provincial officers are, for our purposes here, sufficiently described by their titles.

The members of the hierarchy who came most directly in touch with the masses were the heads of the *fu,* the *chou,* the *t'ing,* and the *hsien,* especially the last. They were judges and had charge of the police, of the performance of certain religious rites, and of the collection of taxes, and were charged with other administrative functions which touched the ordinary man. In accordance with patriarchal ideals, they stood *in loco parentis* to the populace and were called "fathers and mothers" of the people within their jurisdictions.

Along with its obvious virtues, the system had many defects. Among the chief was financial corruption. Salaries were small and expenses large, especially as every official had many dependents to support — including relatives and a throng of

secretaries and other functionaries necessary to the conduct of his office. He had, moreover, to pay sums more or less substantial (theoretically as gifts) to various officials to obtain appointment and had to be prepared to part with additional sums when he came up for re-appointment. To be sure, offices carried with them many emoluments which were regarded as legitimate, but the temptation to gain money in every possible way was very strong,

It will be seen that in effect the country was divided into huge semi-autonomous states whose heads were entrusted ,by the Emperor with almost independent powers. With certain exceptions, each Governor and Viceroy was supposed to handle the affairs of